

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01041 251336Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 /064 W  
-----251354Z 108109 /43

R 251302Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2526  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSYSOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1041

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, CZ  
SUBJECT: CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT HARASSED AT PRAGUE

1. CANADIAN DCM SEABORN TELLS US THAT PETER CALAMAI, A CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT FOR SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICES WAS STOPPED AT PRAGUE AIRPORT APRIL 24 AND DEPRIVED OF HIS PAPERS. WHAT MADE THE CASE EXCEPTIONAL IS THAT CALAMAI HAD AGREED, AT THE TIME HE GOT HIS CZECHOSLOVAK VISA, TO "PLAY BY THE RULES," THAT IS, NOT TO TRY TO INTERVIEW DISSIDENTS.

2. CALAMAI WAS HELD FOR 90 MINUTES AND MISSED HIS FLIGHT TO MOSCOW, AFTER WHICH HE CALLED CANADIAN DCM, WHO ATTEMPTED TO HAVE PAPERS RETURNED TO HIM. THOUGH CUSTOMS PERSONNEL PROMISED TO RESTORE THE PAPERS, WHICH CONTAINED NOTES OF INTERVIEWS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS AND NOTHING ABOUT DISSIDENTS, ACCORDING TO CANADIAN DCM SEABORN, PAPERS WERE NOT IN FACT RETURNED BY TIME SECOND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01041 251336Z

FLIGHT TO MOSCOW DEPARTED WITH CALAMAI ABOARD. FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS CANADIANS A "MISUNDERSTANDING" OCCURRED. AS OF MONDAY, APRIL 25, CANADIAN EMBASSY STILL ATTEMPTING TO EFFECT RETURN OF CALAMAI'S PAPERS. CALAMAI'S COPY OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT WAS SEIZED, BUT RETURNED TO HIM BEFORE HE DEPARTED.

3. COMMENT: OUR EXPERIENCE WITH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS PAUL

HOFFMAN AND LESLIE COLLITT WOULD INDICATE THAT CANADIANS MAY HAVE  
A LONG WAIT BEFORE CALAMIA'S PAPERS ARE RETURNED. ON THE OTHER  
HAND, SINCE CALAMAI CAME TO PRAGUE ON BASIS OF AN "UNDERSTANDING"  
THAT HE WOULD CONFINE HIS ACTIVITIES TO THOSE APPROVED BY  
CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, GOC MAY WISH TO MINIMIZE DAMAGING  
COMMENTARY IN THE PRESS--NOT LEAST TO BE FEARED FROM THE PEN OF  
CALAMAI HIMSELF--BY SPEEDILY TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS.  
BYRNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HARASSMENT, DETENTION, JOURNALISTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PRAGUE01041  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770143-0675  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770423/aaaaatee.tel  
**Line Count:** 70  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** cb30969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2704782  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT HARASSED AT PRAGUE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, CA, CZ, CSCE, (CALAMAI, PETER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cb30969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009